

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES THELMA AND HARRY ZALEWITZ

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Thelma and Harry Zalewitz, who will be honored this weekend by the State of Israel Bonds with the Independent Issue Award for their contributions to the Jewish community in America over the last 50 years. Together they have served on a wide variety of committees, held countless leadership positions, and tirelessly advocated the importance of public service and "giving back" to the community.

Both Thelma and Harry Zalewitz were born in the United States to parents who had emigrated from Eastern Europe. Their families had settled in America with the hope of escaping persecution and reaching toward freedom and the ability to create a better life. They met in Paterson, NJ, and were married in 1946 after Harry returned from World War II. Ten years later, the couple moved with their three children to Verona, NJ, where they joined and immediately became involved in the Jewish Community Center of Verona.

Within a short time, both Harry and Thelma were serving on the Synagogue's Board and holding elected positions. Harry was chosen as Synagogue President and Thelma as Executive Secretary to the Board of Directors. Harry also held the position of co-chairman of the Verona-Cedar Grove campaign of the Jewish Federation. Over the years, the couple has actively participated in the development and growth of the Jewish Community Center of Concordia. Harry served as Vice President for the center, and lent his expertise as a member of the Board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County. Their gratitude for the quality of life they have been privileged to experience has directed them to give both time and resources to insure that same quality of life for all Jewish people.

Today, Harry and Thelma continue to lead their local Jewish community. Thelma currently serves the important role of writing the Yartzeits for the Jewish Congregation of Concordia, transposing the Hebrew dates to the Gregorian calendar dates. They also support the State of Israel through investment in the Israel Bonds campaign.

Thelma and Harry have willingly given themselves to the community. I urge my fellow representatives to join me in recognizing this exceptional couple.

RURAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join my distinguished colleague Congressman BARRETT of Nebraska, along with Representatives PETRI, BALDACCI, and THUNE, in introducing the Rural Education Initiative. This legislation will provide smaller rural school districts across the country with

the flexibility and funding they need to provide a quality education for our children.

A strong investment in the public education system is critical to our nation's future. In recent years, Congress has recognized that reality by increasing federal support for education. These funds are currently disproportionately channeled to larger school districts. Many small and rural school districts have simply fallen through the cracks. Small school districts, including many in North Dakota, have had to forgo federal dollars because they lack the personnel and the resources to apply for competitive grants. Also, due to low enrollment and a lack of special categories of students in these schools, single formula grants fail to provide sufficient revenue to fund any one significant project. As currently structured, these federal grant programs fail to meet the needs of rural school districts.

To address the unique circumstances of smaller rural schools, the Rural Education Initiative would allow school districts with fewer than 600 students to combine funds from four distinct federal programs and provide additional funds based on enrollment. In North Dakota, Belfield Public School District, for example, which has an enrollment of 310 students, would receive a minimum grant of \$50,000 under this legislation. By combining and increasing federal funds to rural districts like Belfield, this legislation would give school administrators the resources and flexibility they need to support local educational priorities.

Mr. Chairman, as Congress moves forward with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), we can not overlook our small and rural school districts. Thirty-five percent of all school districts in the United States and 86 percent of school districts in North Dakota have fewer than 600 students, and are currently struggling to make ends meet. The Rural Education Initiative would take a strong step forward by leveling the playing field for rural school districts, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

CLEVELAND CLINIC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOR REHABILITATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I announce the renaming of Health Hill Hospital for Children to the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for Rehabilitation.

Since 1998, Health Hill Hospital for Children has been part of the Cleveland Clinic Health System. Devoted entirely to pediatric development, Health Hill has one of the largest teams of pediatric therapists in the nation, in addition to being one of the world's preeminent medical research and educational facilities, the Cleveland Clinic Health System is northeast Ohio's foremost provider of comprehensive medical and rehabilitative services to children requiring long-term treatment. Not only does the hospital's pediatric staff provide excellent care to critically ill and disabled children, but they do so in a comforting and caring environment that eases the children's fears and worries.

The primary goal for Health Hill is to create a more independent lifestyle for these children

and their families. For example, by providing unique programs, like the Day Hospital Program, children can receive daily intensive therapy without having to be hospitalized. Day Hospital patients receive therapy, nursing and medical care, yet are able to return home to their families each evening and weekend. Providing patients with the opportunity to maintain their routines and home lives is so important in making a sick child feel as "normal" as possible. The hospital serves children with a variety of illnesses, ranging from spinal cord and head injuries, respiratory problems, feeding disorders, and burns to chronic or congenital medical conditions.

Mr. Speaker, Health Hill Hospital has proven to be more than just a "hospital." Their commitment to providing the highest standards of medical services for special needs children is why they continue to be a shining example of one of the best children's specialty hospitals. Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for Rehabilitation is affiliated with the renowned Cleveland Clinic Foundation, ranked among the ten best hospitals in the nation by U.S. News and World Report's annual guide to "America's Best Hospitals." It is exciting to see the resources of this prestigious hospital devoted to the care of children.

Again, I am honored to announce the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for Rehabilitation's new designation, and commend the Foundation's outstanding achievements throughout the past 78 years.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE SERVICE OF JAMES FARMER

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Honor, an honored American, and a true leader. When we think of the civil rights movement, certain names often come to mind. The names Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks are easy to remember, but I think of a man who was born in the town I call home: Marshall, Texas.

This man was a behind-the-scenes organizer. He was the last living member of the "Big Four" who shaped the civil rights movement in the mid 1950s and 1960s. He founded the Congress of Racial Equality in the 1940s. He organized countless demonstrations and sit-ins. He directed the Freedom Rides to desegregate interstate bus stations in the South in 1961. He served with the NAACP, the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare and taught at several colleges. He was awarded over 22 honorary doctorates, and in 1998, he earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This man was James Farmer.

Mr. Farmer was the son of a Methodist minister and professor of Theology at Wiley College. At 14, on a full scholarship, he went to Wiley College to study medicine only to find that he could not stand the sight of blood. Perhaps more in line with his calling, Mr. Farmer left medicine behind to study religion at Howard University, where he became acquainted with the civil disobedience methods employed by Ghandi. However, upon graduation, he found that he had no desire to minister in a